AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.   (canceled)

2.   (previously presented) The VS according to claim 9, wherein the unidirectional path is defined by a VS identifier (VSID), an address of the sourcing station, and an address of the at least one receiving station.

3.   (original) The VS according to claim 2, wherein the VSID is unique within, and local to, the BSS.

4.   (previously presented) The VS according to claim 9, wherein the VS exists solely within a medium access control (MAC) sublayer of the wireless network.

5.   (canceled)

6.   (previously presented) The VS according to claim 9, wherein the VS is torn down by the QME of the PC-station upon termination of the QoS session.

7.   (canceled)

8.   (original) The VS according to claim 6, wherein the QME of the PC-station releases an associated resource of the BSS reserved for the VS torn down at termination of the QoS session.

9.   (currently amended) A virtual stream (VS) in a basic service set (BSS) in a

wireless <u>local area</u> network, the virtual stream comprising: a unidirectional path in the wireless

<u>local area</u> network between a station sourcing a quality of service (QoS) session and at least one

station receiving the QoS session in the same BSS<u>, the wireless local area network including a</u>

<u>distributed contention scheme under control of a distributed coordination function contained in</u>

<u>each said station</u>;

wherein the VS is set up by a QoS management entity (QME) within a point coordinator

(PC) station of the BSS to transport, under at least one predetermined QoS constraint, a traffic of

the QoS session from a local logical link control (LLC) entity to at least one peer LLC entity in

the same BSS<u>, the PC station controlling a centralized contention scheme that functions in</u>

<u>addition to the distributed contention scheme</u>;

wherein the QME of the PC-station reserves an associated resource of the BSS for the VS

set up for the QoS session; and

wherein the reserved resource is a predetermined bandwidth of a communication link of

the BSS.

10.   (previously presented) The VS according to claim 9, wherein the VS is a virtual

down-stream (VDS),

wherein the station sourcing the QoS session is a PC-station of the BSS, and

wherein the at least one station receiving the QoS session is at least one non-PC station of

the BSS.

11.   (previously presented) The VS according to claim 9, wherein the VS is a virtual

up-stream (VUS),

wherein the station sourcing the QoS session is a non-PC station of the BSS, and

wherein the one station receiving the QoS session is the PC station of the BSS.

12.   (previously presented) The VS according to claim 9, wherein the VS is a virtual

side-stream (VSS),

wherein the station sourcing the QoS session is a non-PC station of the BSS, and

wherein the at least one station receiving the QoS session is a non-PC station of the BSS.

13.   (previously presented) The VS according to claim 9, wherein the VS is a unitcast

VS,

wherein the station sourcing the QoS session is one of a PC-station and a non-PC station

of the BSS, and

wherein the at least one station receiving the QoS session is one of a PC station and a

non-PC station of the BSS.

14.   (previously presented) The VS according to claim 9, wherein the VS is a multicast

VS,

wherein the station sourcing the QoS session is one of a PC-station and a non-PC station

of the BSS, and

wherein a plurality of stations of the same BSS receive the QoS session.

15.   (canceled)

16.   (currently amended) A virtual stream (VS) in a basic service set (BSS) in a

wireless local area network, the virtual stream comprising: a unidirectional path in the wireless

local area network between a station sourcing a quality of service (QoS) session and at least one station receiving the QoS session in the same BSS;

wherein the QoS session includes at least one data frame;

wherein the station sourcing the QoS session includes a frame classification entity (FCE) that labels each data frame of the QoS session with the VSID, the VSID being associated with at least one QoS parameter value for the QoS session; and

wherein the at least one QoS parameter value is at least one of an acknowledgment policy, a flow type, a priority level, a privacy level, a delay bound, a jitter bound, a minimum data rate, a mean data rate, and a maximum data burst.

17.   (original) The VS according to claim 16, wherein the flow type is one of a continuous flow type and a discontinuous flow type.

18.   (original) The VS according to claim 17, wherein the continuous flow type is related to a periodic source.

19.   (original) The VS according to claim 18, wherein the periodic source is a speech source.

20.   (original) The VS according to claim 18, wherein the periodic source is a video source.

21.   (original) The VS according to claim 17, wherein the discontinuous flow type is related to a bursty source.

22.   (original) The VS according to claim 21,wherein the bursty source is a data source.

23.   (original) The VS according to claim 16, wherein the mean data rate is related to a

token rate of a token bucket, and

wherein the maximum data burst is related to a bucket size of the token bucket.

24.   (canceled)